### Table 4. Distinguishing Among Levels of Evidence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>How Established</th>
<th>Considerations for the level of scientific evidence</th>
<th>Data source examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Effective    | • Meta-analyses  
• Systematic or literature review  
• Peer review                       | • Based on study design and execution  
• External validity  
• Potential side benefits or harms  
• Costs and cost-effectiveness        | • The Community Guide  
• Cochrane Reviews  
• Articles in the peer reviewed scientific literature  
• Research-tested intervention programs  
• Technical reports with peer review  |
| Promising    | • Written program evaluation without formal peer review  
• Study outcomes needing replication | • Formative evaluation data  
• Summative evidence of effectiveness  
• Theory-consistent  
• Plausible  
• Potentially high reaching  
• Low-cost  
• Replicable                         | • State or federal government reports (without peer review)  
• Conference presentations  
• Replicated studies in peer reviewed journals |
| Emerging     | • Ongoing work  
• Practice-based summaries  
• Evaluation works in progress       | • Formative evaluation data  
• Theory-consistent  
• Plausible  
• Potentially high reaching  
• Low-cost  
• Replicable  
• Face validity                       | • Evaluability assessments  
• Pilot studies  
• NIH Research Portfolio, Online Reporting Tools (RePORT)  
• Projects funded by health foundations |